

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY

Beltsville, Maryland

Room 303-A
North Building

April 21, 1950

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for your comments on our paper entitled: "The utilization of some organic compounds by one strain each of S. anatum, S. oranienburg, and S. pullorum," J. Bact. 59(3):361-366, March 1950.

The organism requiring thiamine should have been S. gallinarum, but in the process of preparation for publication, it was accidentally transposed as S. pullorum.

I quite agree with your comments regarding the importance of distinguishing between the availability of a carbon compound as an energy source in a synthetic medium on the basis of its metabolic utilizability and the specific growth requirements of an organism. Metzger's results with pantothenate and Pseudomonas sp. (J. Bact. 54:135, 1947) appear to show that distinction. Further work along such lines would indeed be desirable if we are to obtain a clear picture of the role of various substances in the nutrition of microorganisms.

Supplemental studies on the specific growth factors required by our S. pullorum strain are contemplated, if we are to continue along these lines.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Davis

Frank Davis, Bacteriologist
Microbiology Research Division